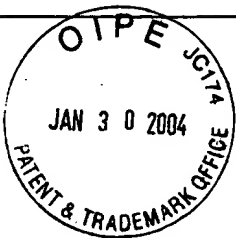


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202.942.5000
202.942.5999 Fax

555 Twelfth Street, NW
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Application No. 09/051,670
371 Filing Date: September 8, 1998
Title: Novel DNAs and Process for Producing Proteins By Using
the Same
Applicants: NAKAGAWA *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16991.009

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office (PTO):

1. an Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709; and
2. a return postcard.

Please stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

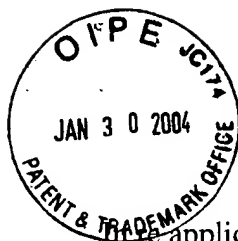
In the event that extensions of time beyond those petitioned for herewith are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387 referencing matter number 16991.009. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)

Dawn Gardner Krosnick (Reg. Attorney No. 44,118)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

NAKAGAWA *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/051,670

371 Filing Date: September 8, 1998

For: Novel DNAs and Process for Producing
Proteins By Using the Same

Art Unit: 1647

Examiner: D. Romeo

Confirmation No.: 8271

Atty. Docket: 16991.009

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FEB 06 2004

TECH CENTER 1800/2900

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by
the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TC 2800

Sir:

Pursuant to an official communication mailed July 29, 2003 regarding suspension of prosecution of the above-referenced application, Applicants respectfully request that a status update of this application be provided to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

(Dawn Gardner Krosnick (Reg. No. 44,118))

Date: January 30, 2004

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